

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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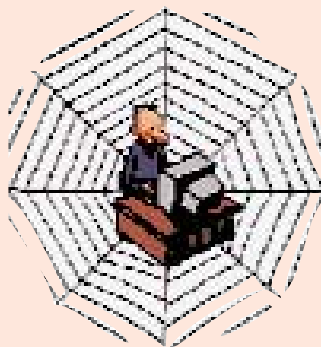
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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Operation Dragon Comeback continues Some services back in medical center

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Most medical clinics established in the dental clinic have returned, or soon will return, to Keesler Medical Center.

Conditions in the medical center allow care to be provided in certain areas of the first floor. Entry is through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street.

To mark the occasion, Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso, 81st Training Wing commander,

and Col. (Dr.) David Armstrong, 81st Medical Group deputy commander, cut a symbolic red ribbon at the entrance Monday.

Officials cautioned this isn't an expansion of medical services, but a relocation of services forced out of the facility by Hurricane Katrina damage.

Family practice, internal medicine, pediatric and flight medicine clinics began offering care Monday. Women's health and general surgery begin seeing patients next week. The optometry clinic

is expected to follow in the near future, 81st MDG officials said.

Signs directing patients to the clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. Members of the security staff are also available to provide directions.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

For details, see Page 11.

3 base civilians share in award for 'excellence'

AETC Public Affairs and Keesler News staff

An Air Education and Training Command team from Keesler and the 381st Training Group at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., recently won one of five 2005 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Awards.

The three Keesler team members, all from the 81st Training Support Squadron, are Alex Aranda, programmer analyst; John Barnes, lead program analyst, and Roger Toney, project manager.

Vandenberg team members are Lt. Col. Wayne R. Monteith; Capt. Ryan Surroz, John Bales, Karl Basham, Casimiro Benavidez III, Joel Bius, Jimmy Brown, Jared Nelson, Michael Maciejewski, John Sill and Eric Talcott, and Linda Hill.

The award recognizes outstanding team performance that promotes systematic approaches, enhances mission capability, improves operational performance and ensures sustained results while maximizing efficiency.

The award is also a way to share best practices within the Air Force.

The Operational Procedure Emulator for Academic Training team developed a personal

Please see **Excellence**, Page 9

Helping hands



Photo by 2nd Lt. Lisa Kostellic

Volunteers from the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron pitch a tent donated by Keesler at the D'Iberville sports complex Nov. 23. Seventeen members of the squadron took part. The tent was used to serve a Thanksgiving Day meal to approximately 1,200 people Nov. 24. More photos of Keesler's off-base humanitarian efforts, Page 12.

Start up of new personnel system pushed back

By **Gerry Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is delaying implementing the new National Security Personnel System until Feb. 1, acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said.

Mr. England and other defense and Office of Personnel Management officials provided an update on the system matters to members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee at a Capitol Hill hearing Nov. 17.

The secretary told senators the system benefits DOD employees.

“This is a win for DOD, it’s a win for our employees, and it’s a win for our nation,” he said.

Several unions recently filed a lawsuit challenging some aspects of NSPS regulations, Mr. England said. How-

ever, DOD, OPM, the Justice Department and the unions involved in the lawsuit announced an agreement Nov. 16.

“While the lawsuit is in process, we have all agreed that DOD will continue the training on NSPS and will continue collaboration with them on implementation details,” Mr. England said.

He said the final NSPS regulations were published in the Federal Register on Nov. 1. That publication, he said, had triggered a 30-day period for congressional review of the regulations prior to their implementation.

NSPS is part of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s program to transform the way DOD does business to better meet the challenges of the 21st century. The new program, in development since 2003, replaces the current general-schedule personnel rank-

ing system with broad pay bands.

Employees are evaluated for performance in duties directly tied to departmental missions. Under NSPS, that pay-for-performance system replaces old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance.

DOD and OPM are partnering to establish the NSPS, which eventually affects 180,000 Department of Homeland Security employees, as well as DOD’s more than 650,000-person civilian work force.

“Our collaboration with the department has been a joint effort, and I do thank Secretary England and his staff for his leadership during this undertaking,” OPM director Linda Springer told the Senate panel.

She said OPM’s role in assisting to craft new NSPS regulations was to ensure there’s a proper balance be-

tween accomplishing missions and the needs of the work force.

“After all, it’s the people in government who make the government work. We also recognize that the government’s human resources system must protect and promote fairness and transparency, and guarantee equal access for all,” Ms. Springer said.

NSPS guards against prohibited personnel practices, protects whistleblowers from recriminations and maintains all safeguards against discrimination, she said.

She said NSPS achieves the balance of employees’ rights to representation and collective bargaining with DOD’s mission requirements.

“Finally, the NSPS honors and promotes veterans’ preference, a privilege that has been dearly earned through personal sacrifice by our men and women in uniform,” Ms. Springer said.

Excellence,

from Page 1

emulator for intercontinental ballistic missile operators that leveraged technology into the classroom to enhance the technical training mission.

The Web-based, interactive trainer provides students with instant, hands-on instruction. The inclusion of OPEAT to augment the traditional curriculum has resulted in a 42 percent improvement in comprehension and 20 percent increase in proficiency by the students.

“Keesler has been a part of several award-winning Simware simulators, not only at Keesler and AETC, but various other commands,” said Mr. Toney.

“Our Simware section was contacted to perform a feasibility study on the OPEAT system to determine if we could assume programming and sustain this ICBM trainer,” he continued. “Additional areas of this feasibility study included a budget for software development, fabri-



Mr. Aranda

cation of control panels and state-of-the-art classrooms for unclassified and classified simulators.”

Mr. Toney noted that Keesler’s recommendations were a driving factor for the development of a newer REACT simulator embracing the latest modification to the Minuteman III system. REACT stands for rapid execution and combat training.

“The classroom operations procedures trainer simulator is scheduled for delivery next



Mr. Barnes

September, with a maintenance agreement until 2020,” he added.

“The biggest improvement is that students are taking a proactive role in the training environment,” said Captain Surroz. “Instead of passively sitting in their chairs and watching a slide show, OPEAT allows students to interact with the instructor and other students practicing the procedures and concepts they are concurrently learning. Not only does this keep them



Mr. Toney

awake, but it also gets them excited to learn about ICBMs.”

“We’ve been training missile officers for 45 years, and this effort proves you can always do better,” said Col. Michael Morgan, 381st TRG commander. “With a little imagination and a willingness to go above and beyond, good ideas can make a huge difference.”

Capt. Gideon McClure, AETC Public Affairs, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

COMMENTARY

Keesler, your deeds in wake of Katrina are remarkable

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

This holiday season I offer my best wishes to all of the members of Team Keesler, both here and deployed abroad.

As one of the newest arrivals to the base, I take command with a sense of pride. Every day I'm struck by the long list of remarkable deeds performed here in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The unwavering dedication to duty shown by Keesler personnel in the absolute worst of circumstances is a shining example of commitment and courage in the finest Air Force tradition.

This year was unlike any other time in this base's history. It was only through Team Keesler's professionalism, dedication and sacrifice that the base was able to weather the storm and get operations up and running so quickly. The challenge of Hurricane Katrina was met fully, and the rapid pace of the base's return to normalcy, as well as our extensive ongoing humanitarian efforts, are welcomed signs of hope to everyone who's been through so much in recent months.

Let's also remember this is a time to dwell on the blessings we enjoy.

There's much to be thankful for this holiday season. Family and friends, our prosperous nation and its thriving democracy — all are part of the blessings we enjoy as Americans.

For those of us in the profession of arms, a further blessing is the privilege to serve in the greatest air and space force in the world. Your willingness to answer your country's call and protect our precious freedom in a time of war shows the great depth of your strength and patriotism.

As we take time off to be with those we care for, let's also remember the families of our deployed Airmen and include them in our holiday plans. We have Air Force personnel deployed in hot spots all around the globe, fighting the global war on terrorism. This can be a difficult time for those left behind.

While their loved ones are proudly serving overseas, the family's sacrifice in their absence is just as great and should be recognized. Share the spirit of the season — we're all in this together.

You now face the prospect of a new year with a new commander and new challenges. I'm going to need everyone's help in making sure Keesler takes the new year in stride.

Moving the base further into normal operations takes everyone's efforts. As we move ahead, I know I can expect the same pursuit of excellence that's a benchmark at Keesler, and I assure everyone this command will do everything it can to make sure you have the tools to succeed.

We can press ahead into 2006 with a feeling of accomplishment and a renewed sense of purpose. Expectations are high and our mission as the schoolhouse for our nation's warriors is of vital importance.

My sincere thanks to all of you for what you've done this year in the service of Keesler's mission and for your country. As we settle into our new home, my family and I extend our best wishes to all of you for a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

I need a place to stay

Comment — My house was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

I'm now on a list to get a Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer. FEMA personnel advise me they probably won't locate the trailer on my lot since it's south of the railroad tracks. Apparently, clearing the lot isn't the only issue; there are health concerns, too. I'm also told it may be six to nine months before I can get a place to put the trailer.

Although there used to be a trailer park on base, housing officials tell me a decision was made not to locate FEMA trailers at Keesler.

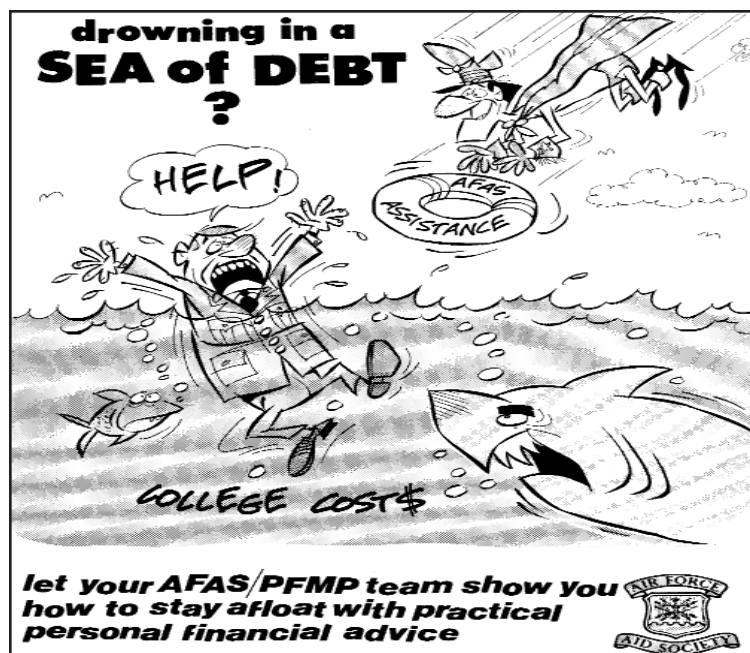
Establishing a trailer city on the base would render a service to people who've been displaced and desperately need a place to stay.

Response — The old trailer park site is in the airfield clear zone. We're not allowed to place any obstacle within this zone.

However, there may be space available at the family campground in Thrower Park. For more information, call Steve Vowel, 81st Services Division, 282-5775.

We're looking into the possibility of increasing the size of the FamCamp. We're also exploring the placement of FEMA trailers on slabs in base housing that were home sites before the hurricane.

Meanwhile, another option is our permanent party dormitories. A number of our people in your position are living in them now.



Seat belts:
1) save lives,
2) are the law.
What's your excuse?

Keesler News

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.

No. 1 in AETC,
2004, 1998, 1996;

No. 2, 2003, 2001,
1999, 1997, 1991;

No. 3, 2002, 1995.

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

Public affairs director

Lt. Col. Claudia Foss

Editor

Perry Jenifer

Staff writers

Susan Griggs

Staff Sgt.

Lee Smith

Senior Airman

Sarah Stegman

Staff photographer

Kemberly Groue

The Keesler News office is in Room 113, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3163, 3837, 7340. Publication date: Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Classified advertising deadline: see Classified section. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Contract gate guards ready to begin jobs

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The folks in blue stand guard for you.

Friday is supposed to be the first day contract gate guards are posted at Keesler's entrances, according to Tech. Sgt. Steven Stafford, noncommissioned officer in charge of training for the 81st Security Forces Squadron.

Their first day on the job might be delayed because complete uniforms hadn't arrived as of Monday.

The uniforms are light blue polo shirts with insignia and dark blue pants with a gray stripe on each leg. The uniform is topped by a ball cap, sweater cap or a hat similar to those worn by drill sergeants and highway patrol officers.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in 2001, Air Force security forces have been overburdened by the heightened operations tempo and intensified force protection measures.

National Guardsmen, reservists and security forces augmentees stepped up to assist, but a workable long-term arrangement was needed. The 2003 Defense Authorization Act enables private companies to handle gate guard duties for the Air Force.

"With the increased operations tempo, so many cops are being deployed that we're often short-handed to handle our state-side duties," said Staff Sgt. Brian Patterson, a member of the 81st SFS training team.

In October, Akal Security of Española, N.M., won a \$21 million contract to provide 500 armed security guards for Keesler and 17 other Air Force installations for 10 months. In its 25-year history, the company has grown to be one of the nation's largest security contractors, with more than 15,000 employees around the world.

Twenty-five guards will work at Keesler.

"These folks have undergone complete background checks that cover everything



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Sergeant Hicks shows Ms. Edwards, one of the new gate guards, the correct and safe way to use handcuffs if someone coming through the gates presents a risk.

"These folks have undergone complete background checks that cover everything except parking tickets. They meet all state and federal licensing criteria for armed guards, as well as Air Force and local base requirements."

— Sergeant Stafford

except parking tickets," Sergeant Stafford said. "They meet all state and federal licensing criteria for armed guards, as well as Air Force and local base requirements."

Staff Sgt. Stephen Hicks, another 81st SFS trainer, noted, "The program is run by security specialists with prior military experience. These guards have 40 hours of training with the contractor followed by 40 hours of training with us, and they'll be evaluated on a continuing basis."

Two contract guards are teamed with an active-duty member while the new procedure is implemented at the White Avenue, Pass Road, Meadows Drive and Oak Park gates. Contract guards also staff the "search pit" for commercial vehicles at the White Avenue entrance.

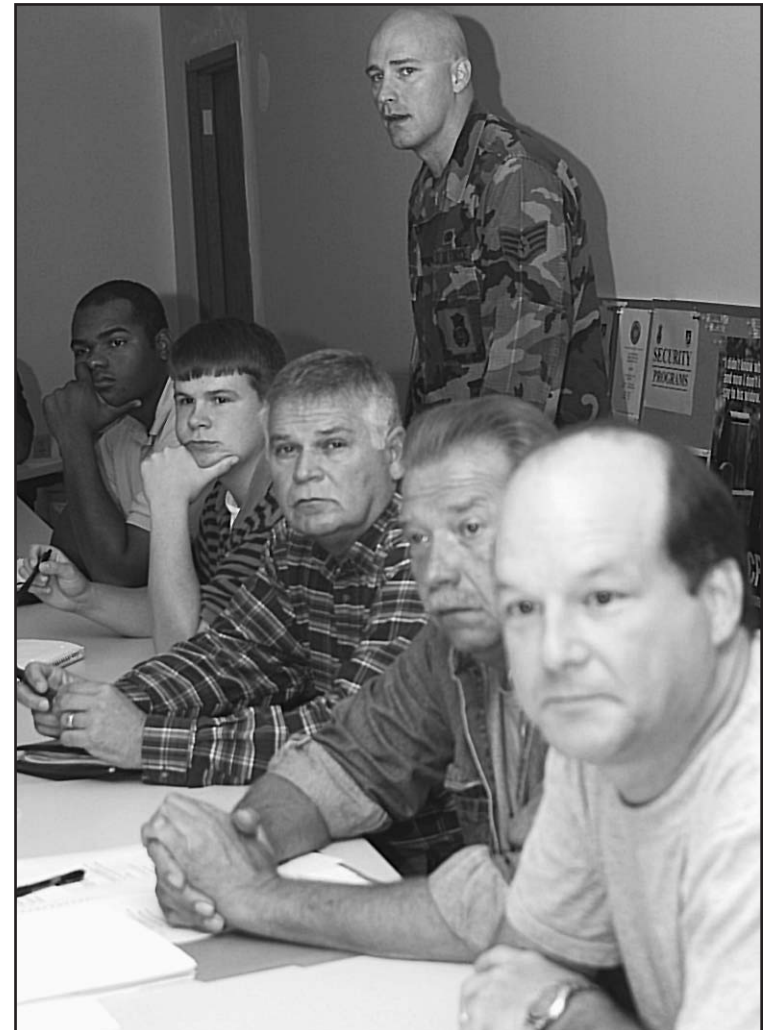
Keesler's new guards come

from a variety of backgrounds, many with past or current military experience.

Ray Green is a master sergeant in the 403rd Security Forces Squadron. He has 18 years military service and has worked with the Biloxi Police Department. As chief of guards for the contractor, he's one of several reservists filling the new positions.

"I have security and law enforcement in my blood," Mr. Green admitted. "Our efforts are to create an organization to relieve the heavily-tasks security forces. Concerns that the community may have will be addressed as opportunities progress and unfold."

Shift supervisor Craig Berkeley, who retired as a master sergeant and 81st SFS flight chief two years ago, said the challenge is to get the acceptance not just of the civilian commu-



Sergeant Patterson briefs members of the contract gate guard team — from left, Michael Harrien, Donovan Higdon, James Gates and Robert Wilson of Gulfport and John Bingham of Biloxi. Mr. Harrien is a senior airman with the 255th Air Control Squadron, Mississippi Air National Guard, and Mr. Bingham is an Army retiree.

nity, but the military and fellow security personnel as well.

"With my prior experience, I can help our guards do an extraordinary job beyond what's expected," said the former noncommissioned officer in charge of security clearance and industrial security.

Shift supervisor Glenn Holmes, another retired security forces master sergeant, is challenged by his new employment opportunity.

"Although I have 24 years of military experience, I've never supervised civilians before," he said.

Dorothy Edwards doesn't have prior military service, but she's worked at Keesler

and the Seabee Base in Gulfport in the past.

"I'm proud of the military that have taken care of us, and I'm challenged to serve as a civilian citizen," Ms. Edwards said. "And I'm glad to be able to do so in a safe, controlled environment."

Keesler is the last Air Education and Training Command base to implement contract guards. That's an advantage, Sergeant Stafford said.

"We're not a test base — other bases have already worked out the kinks," he said. "We know what we expect out of them, and there's an extensive statement of work to back it up."

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Grants increase

Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grants have been increased to \$2,000 by the Air Force Aid Society.

Children of active duty, retirees, Title 10 reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 performing full-time active duty and deceased Air Force members are eligible to apply. Spouses of active duty, Title 10 reservists residing and attending school in the continental United States and widows and widowers of active duty and retirees.

Applications are available at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall. The application deadline is March 10.

Testing resumes

Testing has resumed for all programs administered by the education office.

Make appointments in Room 212, old Cody Hall, or call 377-2323 or 2171.

Testing is in Room 118, Airman Leadership School, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can request tuition assistance online.

Members can accomplish this request from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed through the Web site, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New My AFVEC users

are required to create an account.

Upon registration, select the "Request TA" option. A PowerPoint tutorial in this section to provides instructions on processing online applications.

It's important to know and enter basic course registration information in the request.

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees at Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

CCAF online

Visit the Air Force Virtual Education Center, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, to create My-AFVEC accounts to access online customer service tools.

With the tools, people can request Community College of the Air Force transcripts, track receipt of civilian transcripts, view degree progress reports and check if a course counts toward a CCAF degree.

Physician assistants

Phase I physician assistant training classes begin in January, April and August 2007.

Completed applications must be sent by military personnel flights and arrive by Jan. 27 at HQ AFPC/DPAMW, 550 C Street West, Suite 27, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4729.

For more information, call the military personnel flight or education office or visit <http://>

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/medical/BSC/Education/PAapplication.htm.

Virtual education

The Air Force Virtual Education Center has been transferred to the Air Force Portal.

To access AFVEC, use the AFVEC URL, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, or go directly to the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil/afvecprod>. Use your Air Force Portal user identification and password to log on.

First-time users are prompted to re-register some of their profile information and then are taken directly into their AFVEC profile.

CCAF postponement

The fall Community College of the Air Force graduation is being combined with the spring ceremony.

The postponement is due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Becky Green, education office, 377-2323.

Troops to Teachers

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Officer records

For officers to update their academic records, the Air Force Institute of Technology requires an official transcript sent to this address:

AFIT/RRE, 2950 P St., Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Uniform board sets Oct. 1 date for mandatory PT uniform wear

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force Uniform Board established Oct. 1, 2006 as the mandatory wear date for the physical training uniform for unit fitness activities.

The board also released additional guidance for Airmen wearing the uniform for personal workouts.

Airmen may wear the uniform during personal workouts under these conditions:

T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in.

Jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes.

Black or navy blue leggings or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts.

White socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are authorized.

Any athletic shoes may be worn.

Safety items such as reflective belts, camel-backs and fanny packs are authorized.

Hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements.

Headphones are still authorized.

Bandanas and similar head scarves aren't authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver.

Saluting isn't required.

Female Airmen may wear their hair free of pins or other accessories normally required to meet uniform standards.

There's no mandated maternity uniform for participating in formations or unit activities.

All Airmen must comply with tattoo and jewelry standards as stated in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

The Air Force created the PT uniform to support unit cohesion and present a professional, standardized image.

Commanders determine what uniform items — which consist of a jacket, pants, shorts and T-shirt — Airmen wear during unit fitness events.

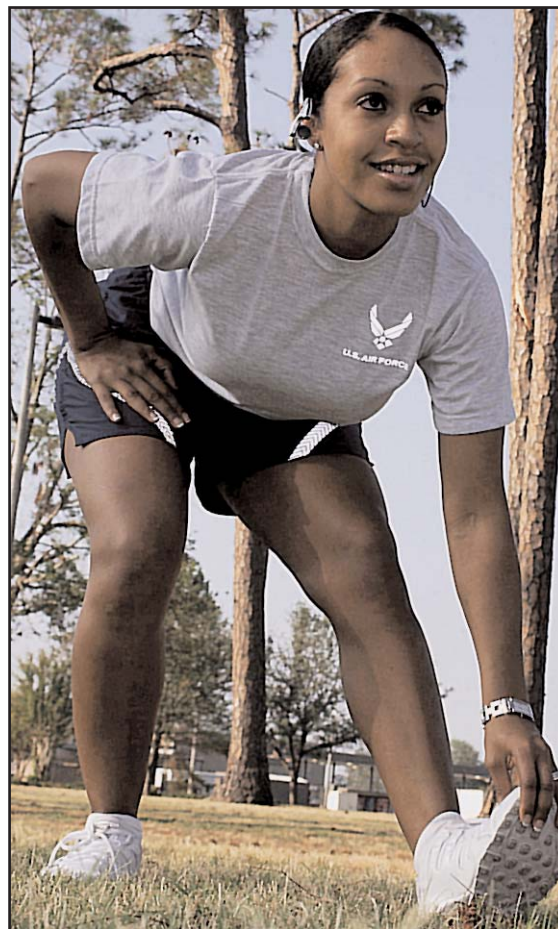


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Senior Airman Lizeth Cameron, 81st Training Wing, warms up in the new PT uniform.

The uniform board is working on optional items including a long-sleeve shirt, sweatshirt and another style of running shorts.

For more information, contact commanders' support staffs, military personnel flights or personnel offices at deployed locations.

Air Force revamps information gateway

By Senior Airman
J.G. Buzanowski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Users who sign on to the Air Force Portal find a more attractive, user-friendly and effective system after the first redesign in two years.

The portal is meant to be the one place Airmen go to accomplish anything they do online. That's whether it's part of their job, like ordering replacement parts, or form processing, like

when they go on leave.

The goal was to make the portal similar to commercial Internet search sites, but still maintain the Air Force feel, said Maj. David Gindhart, one of the program overseers.

The portal got a new color scheme, drop-down menus and an upgraded search engine. Users can customize the portal so the information and links they use on a regular basis are always in the same place.

The portal's instant messen-

ger system, which allows for real-time chat between people who are collaborating on a project or just keeping in touch, is especially useful for deployed troops.

Anyone with an Air Force Portal account can designate up to five people to be able to log into the instant messaging system. There are plans to add voice capability and other improvements in the future.

The site can be accessed at <https://my.af.mil/>.

IN THE NEWS

Welcome home cookout

Active-duty members who've returned from a deployment since February and their families are honored at a cookout, noon Dec. 9 at the Vandenberg Community Center.

The event has special significance in Hurricane Katrina's wake, said Maj. Teresa Roberts, family support center director.

"Many of these folks have been served a double whammy — coming home to mass destruction and personal loss," she pointed out. "This is a great way to let them know that we appreciate their sacrifices."

"Everyone is invited," the major added. "We're asking those who were deployed to wear their desert uniforms."

For more information, call 377-2179.

Seasonal switch under way

81st Civil Engineer Squadron

The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron is preparing to transfer facilities from cooling to heating.

The impact depends on the building's heating, ventilating and air conditioning system. Many newer buildings have four-pipe systems that provide both heating and cooling year-round. Most older facilities, including dormitories and billeting, have two-pipe systems that can only cool or heat at any one time and must be manually switched. It takes about 72 hours to complete the process.

Once the older facilities are switched to heating, they won't be switched back to cooling until spring. Civil engineers said in the event of an unseasonably warm spell, this may result in some temporary discomfort.

Health records go electronic

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense achieved a major milestone Nov. 21 when it launched AHLTA, its global electronic health record system.

AHLTA, the largest electronic health record system of its kind, has the potential to serve more than 9 million service members, retirees and their families worldwide. When fully implemented, about 60,000 military healthcare professionals at stateside defense medical facilities and 11 other countries will use the system.

Full deployment of the system in DOD's 800 clinics and 70 hospitals will be complete by December 2006.

Officer charged in son's death

Air Force Print News

WRIGHT-PATTERSON Air Force Base, Ohio — Second Lt. David Valois was charged Nov. 21 with murder in the death of his 5-week-old son, Andre.

The baby was taken from base housing Oct. 2 to a local children's medical center, where he died.

The cause of death hasn't been released, pending an Article 32 hearing which hasn't been scheduled yet.

Last Keesler News of 2005

By contract, the Keesler News doesn't publish the weeks in which the Christmas and New Year's holidays fall.

The last Keesler News of 2005 is published Dec. 22.

The first issue of 2006 is published Jan. 12.

The newspaper office is minimally staffed on work days between Dec. 26-30 and Jan. 2-6.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Force shaping

For information on force shaping, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Force shaping Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm>, or call the AFPC contact center, 1-800-616-3775.

Verifying deployment credit

For information on verifying deployment credit, call the Air Force Personnel Center's field activities office, DSN 665-2671 or commercial 1-210-565-2671.

Deployment checklist

Physical condition — Pursue a regular exercise program of cardiovascular, strength, flexibility and endurance training. If your shots aren't up to date, call immunizations, 377-6543.

Training requirements — See your unit deployment manager for these training schedules: chemical warfare, combat arms, and self aid and buddy care. Update your training records.

Deployment documents — For current uniform identification cards, visit pass and registration, located in a tent adjacent to the visitors center at the White Avenue Gate. For current dog tags, visit the military personnel flight, old Cody Hall. For current Geneva Convention cards for medical personnel or chaplains, see your unit deployment manager or visit or contact the 81st Mission Support Squadron. Have a copy of your current leave and earnings statement.

Your bags — Pack personal/mobility bag, tools and team equipment/cargo.

Family concerns — To process wills and powers of attorney, visit or call the legal office, Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. If you and your spouse are both vulnerable to deploy, prepare a dependent care statement, Air Force Form 357. For a family readiness plan, visit the family support center, old Cody Hall.

Career development courses

The personnel data system automatically orders weighted airman promotion system career development courses for members who meet the basic eligibility criteria for promotion.

These criteria consider time-in-grade, projected separation and retirement dates, and high year of tenure. Members who become eligible after the ordering process begins request CDCs through unit WAPS monitors.

Members issued WAPS CDCs are required to maintain them until they're superseded or no longer needed. When the material is unusable or unavailable through no fault of the member, the unit commander may request replacement material from the Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning.

To request replacement materials, see your unit WAPS monitor. Requests for replacement to the institute should be made as soon as possible.

Members are responsible for reviewing the WAPS catalog for current study reference material requirements.

For copies of the catalog, see your unit WAPS monitor or go online to <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

One-stop pay, personnel service

One-stop customer service for pay and personnel information is available all day, every day by calling toll-free 1-800-616-3775 or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst/>.

Services begin returning to medical center

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Access to medical services moving back into Keesler Medical Center is through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street.

Family practice, internal medicine, pediatric and flight medicine clinics began offering care Monday. Women's health and general surgery begin seeing patients next week. Optometry is expected to follow in the near future, 81st Medical Group officials said.

Signs directing patients to the clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. Members of the security staff are also available to provide directions.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. working Fridays and 7 a.m.- to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

The first aid station, 377-0500, is now open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. seven days a week, beginning today. Ambulance coverage for Keesler is still available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities.

The clinical laboratory has also returned to its former location in the medical center. The laboratory provides routine chemistries, blood work, Pap smears and cultures.

Life skills, mental health, family advocacy, including the exceptional family member program, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment services remain in the dental clinic, but have moved to suites H and J. Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building for access. Phone numbers are 377-7006 and 6216.

The immunization clinic moves to the former site of the urology clinic as soon as electrical difficulties are overcome. Until then, it remains in the dental clinic.

Flu vaccine is available at the immunization clinic. Flu shots are given to active-duty military members, dependents and medically high-risk people. Well-baby immunizations are also available. Appointments aren't necessary.

The immunization clinic staff is also going to individual squadrons to vaccinate their active-duty members.

Family practice is now located in the former medical specialties clinic. For appointments, call 377-8819 before 5 p.m. It opens at 5:30 a.m. for active duty and 7 a.m. for retirees and dependents. The staff sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. Urgicare and walk-in services aren't available.

Internal medicine, 377-4630 and 4590, returned to its former location.

Pediatrics, 377-8185, has moved to the former oncology/hematology clinic area. The staff provides walk-in acute medical care, well-baby visits, Q-code exams and exceptional family member program/special needs identification. Allergy services aren't available yet.

Women's health, 377-6920, relocates to the former general surgery clinic. The staff provides routine women's health care. Dysplasia patients are contacted by letter for referral off-base as needed for follow-up.

Flight medicine, 377-6668, is in the surgical specialties clinic. It furnishes walk-in acute medical care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and PHAs.



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Maj. Perry Carlson, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, examines Xavier Averyheart's ear with the assistance of his mother, Michelle, Monday in the pediatric clinic, which has moved back into Keesler Medical Center. Xavier, who cele-

brates his first birthday Wednesday, was one of the first patients seen in the clinic, located in the former oncology/hematology clinic area. His dad is retired Army Sgt. Curtis Averyheart. The family lives in Gulfport.

Tricare referrals end

For some Hurricane Rita and all Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma-affected enrollees, Tricare's temporary authorization for blanket referrals ended Wednesday.

Beginning today, those affected by the authorized blanket referral are required to obtain a referral/authorization from their primary care manager before seeking care outside of a military treatment facility or with a non-network and network provider.

Call 1-800-700-8603 to make an appointment with PCMs and obtain an authorization or appointment from the referral management center if necessary. After receiving referrals from PCMs, wait for a phone call from the RMC or a letter from Humana Military Health Services.

To contact the RMC for referral information, call 377-6177. Patients may also call Humana, 1-800-444-544, for the status of a network referral.

For other Tricare information, call the Keesler Tricare Office, 377-3150, or a health benefits advisor, 377-6580.

General surgery and orthopedics share the former orthopedic clinic. Surgical services, 377-6495, are available only for consultations.

Medical records are available in the Wylie Auditorium at the medical center.

Endocrine and dermatology services are available to walk-ins in the family practice clinic.

The Triangle clinic, 377-1008, is in the Levitov Training Support Facility. Only non-prior service students are seen for acute and urgent care.

Dental services, 377-4510, include routine care and cleanings for active-duty members only. Dental emergency care is available for active-duty members, dependents and retirees.

Prescriptions written off-base by off-base providers must be filled and refilled at off-base pharmacies with a possible co-pay or cost-share.

Prescriptions written at the medical center may be filled at the temporary pharmacy in the former clinical research lab. The pharmacy relocates to the medical photo and oral surgery area on the first floor of the medical center within the next two weeks. Remain-ing refills from base prescriptions may be filled by calling 377-6360. They may be picked up about four days later at the temporary distribution area in Building 5 of the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Veterans Boulevard, just off Pass Road.

Karon Forney, director of customer relations, is back in the medical center on the first floor. She doesn't have a phone, but can be reached by email at karon.forney@keesler.af.mil or by stopping by her office.

Life support classes are in the bioenvironmental engineering building. Patients requiring advanced cardiac and advanced pediatric life support are sent off-base for recertification.

Per diem rates for safe haven extended 30 days

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Monday brought good news for Keesler members whose families are still staying in safe haven locations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The anticipated 30-day extension to the safe haven per diem rates payable to uniformed members' dependents was approved Nov. 25, said Maj. Richard Fogg, 81st Comptroller Squadron commander.

That brings coverage for Keesler families to 120 days, or through Dec. 26.

Reimbursement rates are 100 percent for dependents 12 and older and 50 percent for those under 12.

Reimbursement for lodging is limited to the actual cost not to exceed the authorized amount; receipts aren't required.

Receipts aren't required for the meals and incidentals expense that's reimbursed as a flat amount.

Here's a list of other assistance sources.

American Red Cross

Any permanent party resident living in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and not receiving subsistence-in-kind is entitled to a Hurricane Katrina check voucher. To verify eligibility and determine entitlement amounts, call 1-800-975-7585.

Air Force Aid Society

Hurricane Katrina assistance requests are accepted at the family support center, Room 118, old Cody Hall.

Air Force active-duty members, retirees, widows of Air Force retirees, and Army retirees and their widows are required to complete the entire application and provide supporting documentation.

Checks are written to the person or company providing

the repair or service. Requests are decided on a case-by-case basis, and the customer is asked to provide supporting documentation, such as written estimates for tree removal, home repairs and proof of insurance deductibles.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Credit limit increases of up to \$500 are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

BAH

Base housing residents who received basic assistance for housing after Hurricane Katrina and have returned to a habitable unit need to stop by the base housing office in Chapel One east of the dental clinic to stop their BAH.

Residents should check their leave and earnings statements to verify they aren't receiving BAH anymore.

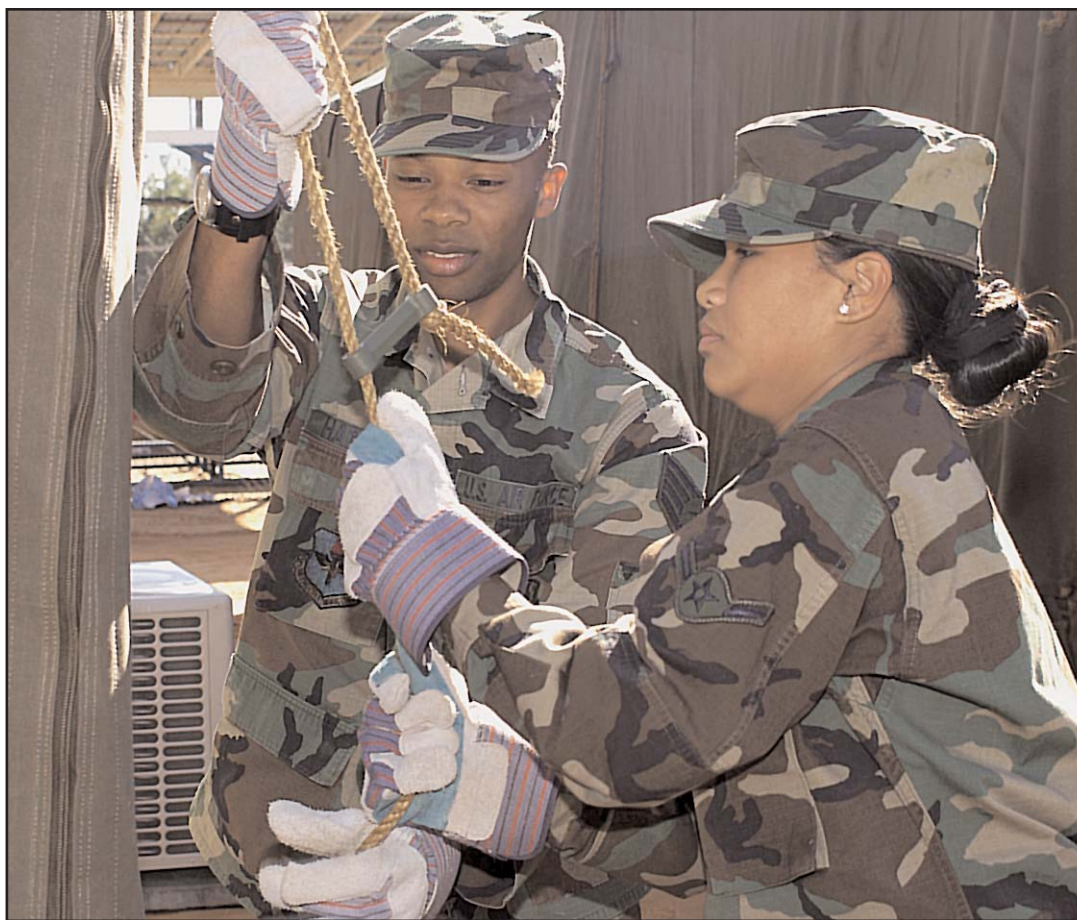
Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call all Sheila Noel, 377-7973, or go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml>.

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

Please see **Aid**, Page 13



Staff Sgt. Bobby Harrison, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, and Airman Monica Go, 336th Training Squadron, tighten ropes to secure tents at D'Iberville's Rudy Moran Park Nov. 18. The ballfield is covered with tents housing families who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina.



Keesler Airmen improve tent cities

Left, Airman 1st Class Josh Young, 336th TRS, digs a trench to drain rainwater around tents where out-of-town relief workers are staying next to Biloxi's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Nov. 18. Other Keesler volunteers built plywood floors for the shelters.

Photos by Kemberly Groue

To advertise
in the Keesler News, call
896-2380 (Classifieds)
896-2499 (Display).

Aid,

from Page 12

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Civilian employees may also donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Diploma replacement

Students who want to replace diplomas from the Community College of the Air Force or professional military education lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171.

Extended child care

Military and civilians affected who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

FEMA

Homeowners, renters and businesses in the areas can apply for federal assistance by registering online with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.fema.gov>, or by calling 1-800-621-3362, or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers are available 24/7.

Government travel card

The government travel card is for official travel expenses while in a travel status.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for payment of government travel card accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used government travel cards for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge

for credit. Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsuthd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>. Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Income tax relief

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 postpones deadlines for affected taxpayers to file tax returns, pay taxes and perform other time-sensitive acts until Feb. 28.

For more information, call the IRS, 1-866-562-5227 or visit the agency's Web site, <http://www.irs.gov>.

Katrina relief fund

Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund continues to assist military members and civilians who suffered losses during the storm.

The fund is a central location for funds donated from other bases and a variety of other sources.

To apply, visit the Keesler secure Web site, <https://www.mil.keesler.af.mil> and click on the red Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund icon on the right side of the screen. The brief application asks for personal contact information, rank, unit and an assessment of personal loss and insurance coverage.

All military and civilian members should complete the form, whether they want to receive financial donations or not, because responses will be used as historical data to determine the actual number of Keesler people who had losses and the extent of their losses.

For more information, call Maj. Teresa Roberts or Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier at the family support center, 377-2179.

Keesler Attic

The family support center's Keesler Attic has a bulletin board to advertise donated furniture for use by active duty victims of Hurricane Katrina.

E-mail a description of items to be donated and a digital picture if possible. Include your name, phone number and contact information.

The information is posted in

the attic, located in Chapel One, east of the dental clinic.

For more information, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592 or 228-860-8681.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

SBA

The Small Business Administration is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations that received hurricane damage. The SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster-damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture and clothing.

For more information, call 1-800-659-2955, email questions to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visit the Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>.

SGLI

The Defense Department extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Maximum SGLI coverage increased to \$400,000 on Sept. 1. On that date, members eligible for SGLI were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI, which continues under previously existing elections.

Those who wish to keep the \$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations as before Sept. 1 don't need to take any action. If members wish to again decline or reduce the coverage, they must complete a new SGLV 8286 — September 2005 version — at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> indicating the amount of coverage desired.

Base facilities update

McBride Library closed 2 weeks for repairs

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman

Keesler News staff

McBride Library is closed until Dec. 15 for post-Katrina maintenance.

The following services are available:

Federal Emergency Management Agency fax service is available 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. daily. No other fax service is available during this time.

Books may be renewed by phone Monday through Friday. Books may be returned to the outside book drop at any time.

Customer computer access, test proctoring, normal library circulation and interlibrary loan services aren't available during the closure.

Library access is at the south entrance.

Other open base facilities are:

81st Services Division

Arts and crafts, frame and engraving shops — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. The car wash is open 24 hours a day.

Child development center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Space is available at the center and for the preschool program. For more information, call 377-2211.

Dining facilities — Magnolia Dining Facility is closed for critical maintenance; it's tentatively scheduled to reopen today, according to food services director Glenn Jones.

Until further notice, lunch meals in all dining facilities are provided only to military personnel with meal cards, at Keesler on temporary duty orders and those normally authorized to eat in these facilities.

Civilians, other than those displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina, aren't authorized to use the dining facilities during the lunch meal.

Azalea Dining Facility serves only non-prior service students for all meals.

Family child care — five providers are currently accepting children in their homes. Children are also being accepted at the mildly-ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming licensed family child care providers, call the family child care office, 377-5935, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Melody Schobert, 81st Training Support Squadron, receives money from Keesler Federal Credit Union's drive-up automatic teller machine. Both credit union ATMs on base are now operational 24 hours a day.

Information, ticket and travel office — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays in the customer service area of Vandenberg Community Center.

Vandenberg Community Center — open for senior airmen and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Wood shop — 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and non-working Fridays. Planers and drum sanders aren't available at this time.

Youth activities center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Before- and after-school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

Triangle Fitness Center, the marina, Keesler Club, Warrior Lounge and Keesler Community Center are closed.

AAFES

Car care center — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Service bays close at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 432-2404.

Class Six/Shoppette — open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays as a one-stop holiday shop, with toys, clothing, decorations and gift items.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

Home furnishings store — 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m. daily at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Street.

Welch Auditorium — movies shown 7 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Banking

BancorpSouth — bank lobby is now open during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday.

The drive-up automatic teller machine is operational 24 hours a day, and the mini-mall ATM is also operating during business hours.

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open for limited service, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Base branch is operating in an off-line mode, but can handle cash withdrawals or checks up to \$400 per person per day. New accounts can be opened for base personnel and temporary tenants such as the Red Cross.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of Highway 90. Pass Road, White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable. For a

list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

Mini-mall

Alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

At Ease embroidery/unit apparel — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

Barber shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

CZee Zone Internet Café — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Dawg Daze hot dog cart — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Military clothing sales — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Seattle's Best Coffee — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily in the mini-mall.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Moves

Area Defense Counsel — Keesler's office is now in Room 5703, Locker House. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal

Please see **Facilities**, Page 15

Facilities,

from Page 14

Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions. For appointments, call 377-2429.

Contracting — now located in Room 101, old Cody Hall.

Education office — now located in Room 212, old Cody Hall. For assistance, call 377-2323 or 2171.

Family support center — now located on the first floor, old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

In Chapel One, there's an annex with supplies for all ranks and base civilians including clothes, food, baby items and cleaning supplies. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

Finance — now located on the second floor, Vosler Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays. For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility. A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon. For appointments, call 377- 3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personal finances — The personal financial management program is now located

in Room 119, old Cody Hall. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retirees, annuitants — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

Traffic management office — TMO for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377- 0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO has returned to Sablich Center, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone numbers are inbound personal property, 377-7813; outbound counselors, 377-7815; outbound documentation, 377-2326; non-temporary storage, 377-7810; quality assurance, 377-2969; passenger travel, 377-2600; N&N Travel, 432-5825; TMO officer and administrative staff, 377-7825.

Pets

Veterinary clinic — open 8 a.m. to noon Mondays-Fridays for over-the-counter sales. For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

Self-help store

The self-help store is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for housing residents and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 377-5397.

Keep safety in mind while decorating for holiday season

By Susan Griggs
Keesler News staff

Decorating your home is a way to set the stage for the holiday season. But keep in mind that those magical twinkling lights are electrical products that can increase the possibility of fire in the home.

To prevent fires from holiday decorations, the fire department recommends:

Use materials that are non-combustible or flame resistant and retardant.

Keep candles away from decorations and Christmas trees.

Use only electrical decorations that have an independent testing lab label, and follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

Inspect new and used light cords and replace damaged ones.

Don't overload extension cords.

Don't mount lights with nails or clips that can damage wiring.

Keep children and pets away from light cords and

electrical decorations.

Turn off lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

People who live in military family housing have additional rules for holiday decorating:

Displays and decorations must be tasteful, appropriate for the occasion and not oversized.

Roof top decorations aren't allowed.

Decorations mounted along the roofline must be fastened to the gutters or roofing shingles with plastic hangers that won't damage the housing unit. Holes can't be made in vinyl or metal siding or gutters. Small nails or staples may be used on wood surfaces.

Lights aren't allowed on metal trees.

Exterior decorative lighting must be turned off between midnight and 5 a.m.

Christmas decorations are authorized from the day after Thanksgiving through Jan. 9.

HOLIDAY NOTES

Gift camp — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the arts and crafts center.

For ages 8 and older. Cost is \$20; includes lunch and three fun craft projects perfect for Christmas gifts.

For more information, call 377-2821.

Christmas in the Park — Dec 8. Events include rides for children at 4 p.m.; Christmas caroling at 4:45; Christmas tree lighting at 5; Fire truck with Santa at 5:30 and a visit with Santa at 5:45.

There will also be hand-crafted items on sale.

Crafters who would like a free display booth, call 377-2821.

Santa calling — Parents who'd like to have their children receive a personal call

from Santa between Dec. 20 and 23, contact the youth activities center no later than Dec. 16. For more information, call 377-2821.

Operation Santa Police — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 12. Members of 81st Security Forces Squadron "arrest" individuals with a "warrant" and bring them to Building 3501, the 81st SFS holding cell, until their time is up.

Cost is \$10 for the first 30 minutes and \$5 for additional minutes for up to two hours. Bail can be posted by matching the cost of the warrant.

Proceeds benefit the Toys for Tots and the 81st SFS Council. For more information, call 377-2035, 7231 or 7296.

Got blood?



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Senior Airman Josie Tagashira, 81st Medical Support Squadron, reads information from blood components to Tech. Sgt. Jerry Parks, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Keesler Blood Donor Center. They're labeling components for shipment to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The blood donor center is open for volunteer blood donations. To make an appointment, call 377-0384 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-working Fridays. Walk-in donations are accepted during the same hours in Room 224B, Bryan Hall.

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 65, No. 39
Thursday, Nov. 3, 2005

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

Base improves safety record in fiscal 2005

By Susan Griggs
Keesler News Staff

The 81st Training Wing's annual mishap summary and analysis for fiscal 2005 shows marked improvement, especially during the critical summer months.

Operation Summer Survivor/Xtreme Challenge, Air Education and Training Command's version of the Air Force's 101 Critical Days of Summer "was a huge success for Keesler," said Lt. Col. Lawrence Averbeck, the 81st TFW safety chief.

That period from Memorial Day to Labor Day usually has more accidents due to summer travel and recreational activities.

"During this period, the wing had no Class A or B mishaps, and our four Class C mishaps were a 43 percent decrease, compared to FY04," the colonel said. "This could be attributed to the culture change of operational risk management by all personnel throughout the wing and to increased emphasis from leadership."

Class A mishaps include a fatality, a permanent total disability, destruction of a Defense Department aircraft or an accident with a total cost of \$1 million or more.

Class B mishaps include a permanent partial disability.

Please see Safety, Page 9

Their first look at Keesler

Photo by Herb Welch

Some of the 312 basic training graduates who arrived at Keesler Monday for technical training walk from their buses to dormitories in the Triangle. This was the largest one-day influx of students in at least two years, according to 81st Training Group officials.

Congress reviews new civilian personnel system

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Ending a nearly two-year process, the Defense Department sent Congress the final national security personnel system regulation.

Once adopted, the labor-relations portion of the system takes effect immediately.

"The human resources portion — the new pay bands, the pay-for-performance system, etc. — is scheduled to progressively begin in February," Mr. England said.

Some 60,000 employees are in the first group to come under the new program, officials said. But human resources officials are being very deliberate in how the program goes, Mr. England said.

In fact, the system goes through a six-month "mock period" before becoming effective.

"That is, at the end of six months, we'll evaluate," Mr. England said. "We'll act as if this was for real, but it will be a mock exercise in terms of the results we can learn."

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Country-western band plays Keesler Friday — details, Page 16

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For
Keesler News
delivery,
managers of
base facilities
call 377-3163.

At this time, we're unable to deliver to family housing areas.

KEESLER

NOTES

Office closed

The public affairs office is closed 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today for a unit function.

GriefShare

GriefShare Support Group meetings resume, 11 a.m. Sunday at the Larcher Chapel.

For more information, call Glenda Woodard, 377-5032, or Chaplain (Capt.) Winston Jones, 377-2761.

Bunko lunch

A Bunko lunch, 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Vandenberg Café, is hosted by the Keesler Officers Spouses Club.

Prizes are awarded.

For more information, call Michelle Harper, 327- 6848.

Smooth Moves

The family support center's Smooth Moves program for families planning a permanent change of station is 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 8 in Room 122, old Cody Hall.

For more information, call Jennifer Johnson, 377-5990.

Toastmasters

The At Eze Toastmasters Club is meeting again, noon Tuesdays in the Building 1101 conference room.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Preschool program

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5-year-olds in the 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. sessions.

Classes are Mondays-working Fridays at the youth activities center.

Enrollment is at the child development center.

For more information, call 377-2211.

Fitting gas masks

Gas masks are fit tested 8-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Building 420, east of Fisher House on Fisher Street.

KOSC activities

For information on Keesler Officers Spouses Club activities, call Michelle Harper, 327-6848.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Da' Dynasty takes Turkey Bowl championship

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Da' defense won da' championship.

Da' Dynasty held the tournament's highest-scoring team to seven points in beating the 81st Medical Group, 12-7, in the Turkey Bowl championship game Nov. 22.

Da' Dynasty, a team made up of players from the 81st Civil Engineer, 81st Security Forces, 81st Transportation and 332nd Training Squadrons, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, went through the double-elimination tournament undefeated, shutting out three of their opponents and giving up only 20 points.

Conversely, the 81st MDG entered the tournament championship game averaging more than 30 points per contest.

Even with the medics' high scoring offense, Da' Dynasty's strategy was to do what they did to get to the championship game, according to Teddy Poole, Da' Dynasty's quarterback.

"We wanted to play our game, not theirs," Poole said. "We have a lot of respect for their team. We wanted to keep the ball on offense and keep theirs off the field."

The 81st MDG earned the right to play for the title earlier in the day by defeating the 81st Medical Support Squadron's "Log Dogs," 33-9, to emerge from the losers' bracket.

Da' Dynasty sent the "Log Dogs" to the losers' bracket by blanking them, 18-0, Nov. 21. On the same day, the 81st MDG eliminated the 338th TRS, 37-6.

In the first half of the title game, it seemed as if it was going to be another 81st MDG offensive explosion when the medics scored first. With a successful point after attempt, they held a 7-0 advantage.

Poole said that despite the scoring drive, his team didn't alter its game plan.

"We knew we could not completely stop them, but we wanted to slow them down,"

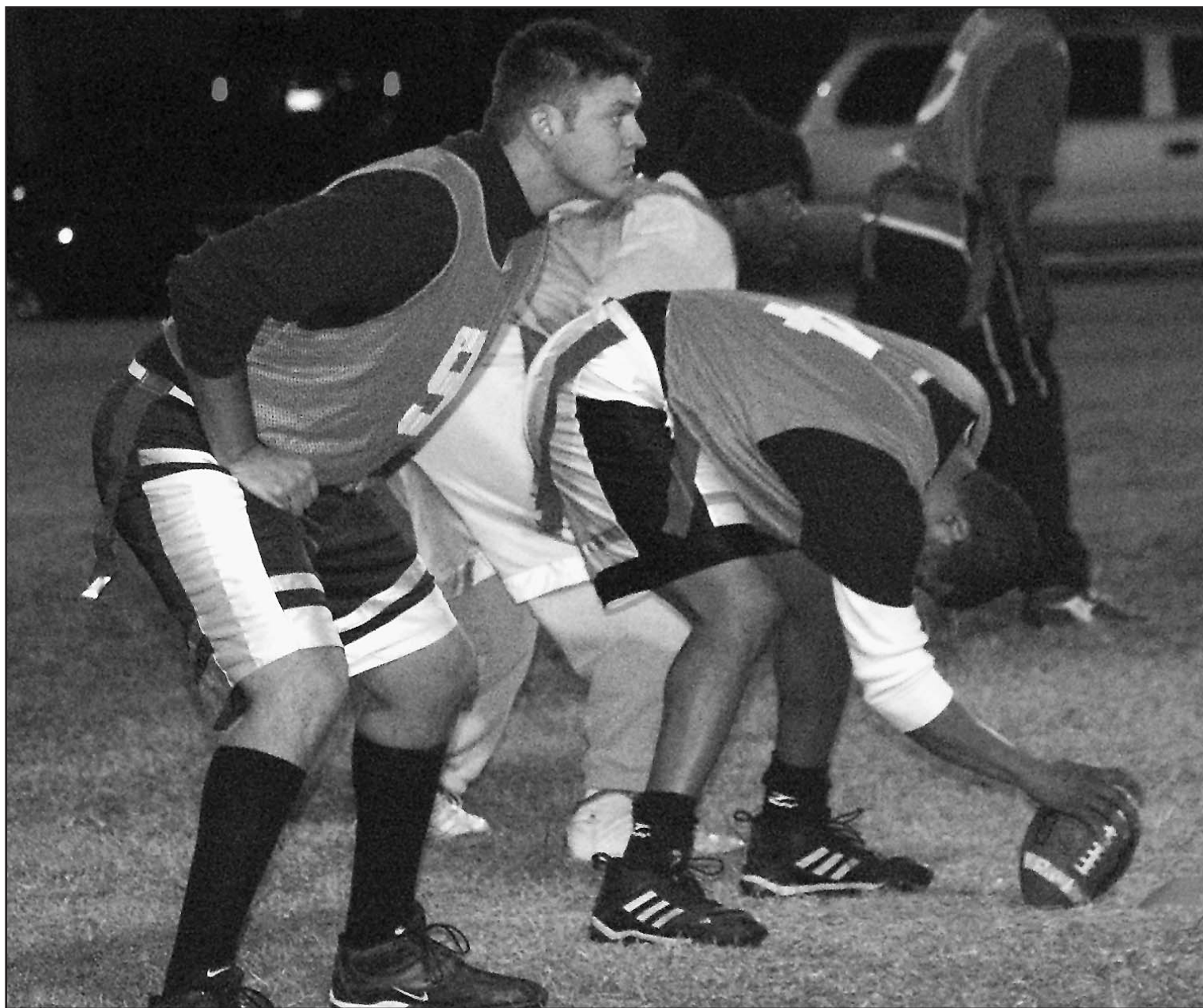


Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Shane Hogan, 9, and Daryl Moss, far right, wait for Timothy Taylor to hike the ball for Da' Dynasty during the Turkey Bowl championship game Nov. 22.

he said. "Our main rushers had to do their job and they did; their quarterback wasn't able to get into a rhythm after the score."

Da' Dynasty's defense forced a turnover on the medics' next possession, which started a drive from deep in their own territory. It culminated with a quarterback keeper by Poole.

Da' Dynasty's PAT was unsuccessful and at the end of the first half, the 7-6 score favored the medics.

Medics' coach Calvin

Oliver said Da' Dynasty's score before the end of the half had an effect on his team.

"During the tournament, we had been used to marching down the field, scoring and getting the ball right back and scoring again," Oliver said. "That score was more important psychology than any defense they showed us."

The first possession by the 81st MDG in the second half ended with an interception, but Da' Dynasty couldn't capitalize and was forced to punt.

The 81st MDG gave the

ball back on downs with just over five minutes left in regulation.

It was here that Da' Dynasty had their best offensive possession of the second half, marching down the field and keeping the chains moving with two first downs.

With the ball inside the 81st MDG 20-yard line, Poole called his own number and ran for the touchdown with less than two minutes to play. A two-point conversion was unsuccessful, but Da' Dynasty didn't need it.

The 81st MDG was able to move the ball quickly down the field and in position to win the game, but Da' Dynasty's Jimmy Simmons intercepted a pass in the end zone with under a minute to play to seal the victory.

After the game, James Grubb, Keesler sports director, addressed both teams.

"That was a great end to the tournament," he said. "We are looking at having another tournament around January."

Please see **Football**, Page 19

Keesler brings boxing to base Dec. 9

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith
Keesler News staff

Keesler hosts an amateur boxing event, 7-10 p.m. Dec. 9 in Hangar 4.

“Operation Slugfest” features 24 amateur boxers in three- and four-round bouts.

Eight boxers compete in each of three weight categories: lightweight (boxers

weighing 155 pounds and below); middleweight (155-190 pounds) and heavyweight (190 pounds and more).

Tickets are \$10 for senior airmen and and below, and \$15 for staff sergeant and above, and can be purchased at Vandenberg Community Center and Gaudé Lanes.

A limited number of tick-

ets are also available to the off-base public.

The event is sponsored by Bomber Promotions and sanctioned by the Mississippi State Athletic Commission.

Food and beverages will be available.

For more information, call 377-1597.

Football,

from Page 18

“This gave us something to look forward to and prepare,” Poole said. “Everyone had a good time playing.”

Oliver agreed, saying, “Our squad was really looking forward to the (intramural) season. We had been preparing since July. The tournament was a good outlet.”

In addition to Poole, the tournament’s most valuable player, and Simmons, other members of the winning team

are Wesley Anderson, Ryan Callagy, Damion Clark, Roy Coats, Benjamin Collins, Michael Elmore, Antonio Evans, Kwame Felton, Shane Hogan, Anthony Jones, Daryl Moss, Leviticus Robinson, Jason Sarrett, Christopher Shivers, Timothy Taylor and Gregory Thomas.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

League sign-ups — starts in December for all leagues. Mondays is Federal League, five bowlers per team; Wednesdays is Mixed League, four bowlers per team; Thursdays is Seniors, four bowlers per team and Women’s League continues Thursday; Hospital and Veterans Affairs Employee Association leagues, Tuesday.

Intramural league meeting — 1:30 p.m. Dec. 15. For more information, call 377-2817.

11th Frame snack bar — inside Gaudé Lanes bowling alley, open 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, for lunch only, and Monday-Friday 5-9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 3-9:30 p.m.

Gaudé Lanes — open 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 3-10 p.m. Saturday, and 1-7 p.m. Sunday.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — open Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is closed on non-working Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The basketball court isn’t available.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

The front nine holes of the Bay Breeze Golf Course open at 8 a.m. today. They remain open daily for free play until further notice.

Outdoor recreation

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for staff sergeants and above, is in the main marina building. The lounge opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who’ve been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Matthew Bauman, Jacqueline Garcia, Jonathan Gonzalez, Colin Hoffert, Morgan Littleton, Seth Miline, Timothy Ogburn, Laverne Pettit, Matthew Powell, John Prete, Ace Ranada, Christopher Reynolds, Shaina Smith, Angelica Stamper, Latoya Stewart, Lindsay Stewart, Khalfani Thomas, Zachary Waldon, Jason Warrick, Daniel Wegman and Aaron Winans; Airmen David Johnson, Matthew McCurtain, Gregory Nordquist, Guillermo Salcedo, Thomas Wehmeyer and Walter Wood; Airmen 1st Class Christopher Brewer, Wesley Cato, David Decker, Derrick Dugay, Jesse Garcia, Richard Long, Noel Morgan, Jose Navarro, Eric Ratajczak, Andrew Sauer, Arthur Serfes, Kevin Wolff and Xiong Yang; Staff Sgts. Dante Adams and Ismael Lopez.

335th TRS

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Ashley Adcock, Ashley Babich, Christopher Dearborn, Dustin Hawthorn, Matthew Marlow, Philip Primmer and Cody Weakland; Navy Airmen Recruit Elizabeth Brockman, Billy Herron, Jeweleryana Rose, Kelly Saroka and Nicole Tzystuck; Marine Pvt. Jacob Hansel; Navy Airmen Apprentice Justin Brauch, Micaela Murtua and Melissa Springer; Airmen 1st Class Philip Carnathan and Trisha Smeenk; Navy Airmen Daniel Erklauer and Benjamin Wells; Navy Seaman Brian Stanfield; Marine Cpl. Ryan Wood; Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan Brown.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic and switching systems course — Airman Basic Preston Smith; Airman Peter Krawitz; Airmen 1st Class Edwin Aviles, Daniel Howell, Dustin Lee and Keith McDowell; Staff Sgt. Darin Bartlett.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Classes haven't resumed yet.

First Term Airmen Center

Classes scheduled to resume in January.

Keesler NCO Academy

Current class runs through Dec. 16 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. No decision has been made about other classes at this time.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel10 a.m.

Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.

Health and wellness center

Stress management — 3 p.m. Wednesday and Dec. 14, 21 and 28.

Tobacco cessation — classes resume in January. To register, call 377-5305.

PROMOTIONS

2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

Monday through Dec. 16 — major line, CHAP, JAG, BSC, MSC.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies at Welch Auditorium

Editor's note: Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., Elizabethtown (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., A History of Violence (R); 7 p.m., In Her Shoes (PG-13).

Sunday — 2 p.m., The Gospel (PG).

December weather outlook

December offers the first opportunity for a rare occurrence of snow to the Keesler area. It was during this month in 1963 that Keesler received a record 8 inches of snow. Visibility is often restricted due to fog during the morning and evening hours, accompanied by low overcast skies. Frontal systems make it into the Gulf of Mexico, bringing in colder air that averages three days of below-freezing temperatures in the month.

Extreme maximum temperature (F).....81

Mean daily maximum temperature (F).....62

Mean daily minimum temperature (F).....48

Extreme minimum temperature (F).....10

Mean relative humidity (percent).....75

Mean monthly precipitation (inches).....4.71

Mean number of days with precipitation.....9

Mean number of days with thunderstorms.....2

Maximum 24-hour rainfall (inches).....5.71

Percentage of observations with ceiling less than:

2,000 feet.....15.2

1,000 feet.....10.2

300 feet.....2.6

Percentage of observations with visibility less than:

6 miles.....21.0

3 miles.....7.8

1 mile.....3.3

Percentage of observations with wind:

0-3 knots.....30.9

4-10 knots.....60.8

11-21 knots.....8.2

22 knots or greater.....0.1

Base personnel can access radar and satellite data and a general forecast on the local area network in the public folders under 81 OSF Weather.

Has your organization

resumed its meetings

since Hurricane Katrina?

To list time, place and point of contact

in the Keesler News,

call 377-3837

or e-mail KN@keesler.af.mil.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven-fried fish, Cantonese spare ribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, baked macaroni and cheese, noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, country style tomato salad, jellied spring salad, hearty vegetable soup, Italian wedding soup, chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork loin, oven-brown potatoes, rice, gravy, califlower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, Polish sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbeque beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — Chinese five-spice chicken, beef and broccoli stir fry, Cantonese spareribs, vegetable egg rolls, shrimp fried rice, stir fry vegetables, chow mein noodles, fried cabbage, chicken gravy, lemon sesame green beans, Mexican coleslaw, pasta fagioli soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.